

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 67**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Furutani**

June 8, 2011

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 67—Relative to Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders communities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 67, as introduced, Furutani. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders communities.

This resolution would recognize the contributions of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities to California, and would also recognize the importance of preserving Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities and their traditions.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Making up more than 284,000 community  
2 members, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI)  
3 community in California has one of the largest NHPI populations  
4 in the United States. In addition, the NHPI population increased  
5 by 23.4 percent between 2000 and 2010; and  
6 WHEREAS, The NHPI community makes up an incredibly  
7 diverse group comprised of a number of different ethnicities  
8 including, but not limited to, Guamanian/Chamorro, Native  
9 Hawaiian, Marshallese, Fijian, Samoan, and Tongan. Outside of  
10 Hawaii, California has the largest population of Native Hawaiians  
11 numbering 60,048. The second largest NHPI group is Samoan  
12 with a population of 49,804. Guamanian/Chamorro is the next  
13 largest NHPI group in California with a population of 33,849. The

1 largest Tongan population in the United States is also found in  
2 California with a population of 15,252; and

3 WHEREAS, As a result of the Spanish-American War in 1898,  
4 the United States came to assume formal government control of  
5 Guam, Hawaii, and American Samoa. Because of this, the  
6 Chamorros of Guam, the Hawaiians of Hawaii, and the Samoans  
7 of American Samoa became part of the United States. Most Pacific  
8 Islander migrants were men enlisted in the United States Armed  
9 Forces and others worked in various plantation and entertainment  
10 industries. Today, Pacific Islanders are American citizens or  
11 American nationals; and

12 WHEREAS, An influx of NHPIs arrived in California in the  
13 1950s after World War II. Post World War II, military service  
14 brought Pacific Islanders from the United States territories of  
15 American Samoa and Guam to California. Native Hawaiians and  
16 Tongans came to California seeking economic opportunities, with  
17 many Tongans migrating to California via American Samoa.  
18 Mormon church activities also brought Tongan students and other  
19 NHPI immigrants to California. Many NHPIs initially settled in  
20 southern California cities such as Carson, Los Angeles, Long  
21 Beach, Oceanside, and San Diego, while others settled in San  
22 Francisco. Most NHPI Californians today reside in the greater  
23 Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles areas; and

24 WHEREAS, The 2010 Census Bureau data shows that NHPIs  
25 are continuing to become a growing part of our nation's economy.  
26 Between 2002 and 2007, NHPI-owned businesses saw a 31-percent  
27 growth in number, while United States businesses overall increased  
28 in number only 18 percent. NHPI-owned businesses also saw a  
29 52-percent increase in revenue, while total business receipts for  
30 United States businesses increased only 33 percent. Data show  
31 that about 56 percent of all Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific  
32 Islander businesses were owned by people of Native Hawaiian  
33 origin in 2007; Guamanian-owned or Chamorro-owned businesses  
34 accounted for 10 percent, Samoan-owned businesses accounted  
35 for 8 percent, and businesses owned by people of Other Pacific  
36 Islander descent accounted for 25 percent; and

37 WHEREAS, The NHPI community faces unique challenges as  
38 a result of its distinct history and community experience. As a  
39 result, the NHPI community organized and helped institute an  
40 update to the Federal Office of Management and Budget's

1 Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 in 1997 to establish a specific  
2 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander category relative to the  
3 collection of data. The NHPI community would be best served if  
4 local, state, and federal entities disaggregated data to identify trends  
5 specific to the NHPI community; and

6 WHEREAS, While NHPIs represent diverse ethnic, religious,  
7 and political backgrounds, they all also share similar cultural values  
8 and norms. These values include a respect and deference for elders,  
9 appreciation for reciprocal labor and time, and an understanding  
10 of communal and intergenerational authority; and

11 WHEREAS, Preserving our Native Hawaiian and Pacific  
12 Islander communities throughout California is critical to our state  
13 history and for the preservation of Native Hawaiian and Pacific  
14 Islander culture, history, traditions, and other elements of their  
15 heritage; now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
17 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the role that  
18 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have played in the social,  
19 economic, and political development of California throughout the  
20 state's history; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all federal, state, and  
22 local organizations to promote the preservation of Native Hawaiian  
23 and Pacific Islander history and culture, including the preservation  
24 of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities; and be it  
25 further

26 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
27 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.